bring any legislation cover feelitle environment and forests into the State List?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Environment as such is not included among the legislative entries in Schedule VII to the Constitution of India although various subjects having a bearing on environment are included in the Union, State and Concurrent Lists of legislation. Forests is in the Concurrent List. The question of deleting environment from the Concurrent List does,, not therefore, arise. As regards Forests, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not received any representation for transfer of forests from concurrent list to the State List.

(b) No Proposal to bring any legislation to transfer forests to or include environment in the State List is under the consideration of the Ministry.

Environment in Himalayas

3341. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environment in Himalayas is being jeopardized by indiscriminate felling of forests and air and water pollution;

(b) whether Government are contemplating an comprehensive policy for preservation of environment in the Himalayas;

(c) whether such demands have also been made by environmentalists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) No indiscriminate felling of forests have taken place in the Himalayan region. The actual forest Himalayan region has shown an increase from 1,87,000 sq. km. to 1,94,161 sq. km. during the assessment made in 1987 and 1989 by the Forest Survey of India using landsat imageries relating to 1981—83 and 1985—87 respectively. Air and water pollution is not yet a major problem as very limited industrialisation has taken place in the region.

Among various steps taken by the Government for preservation of environment in the Himalaya are: (i) the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was enacted to check the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes; (ii) the State Govt. have been asked to consider a ban on green felling of trees of hilly and mountainous region above 1000 mts; (iii) Guidelines have also been issued to the States to involve village community in protection of forests on usufruct basis; (iv) the Government have set up G.B. Pant Himalaya Paryavaran Evam Vikas Sansthan (G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and development) as an autonomous organisation of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India to enhance the knowledge of evolving effective strategies for management of natural resources and sustainable development in the Indian Himalaya; (v) the hilly States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh) are categorised as special categorised as special category States and the hill districts which are covered under the Hill Area Development Programme are given Special Central Assistance (SCA) on 90% grant and 10% category States. The hilly districts are; two districts of Assam, 8 districts of Uttar Pradesh and main part of Darjeeling district of West Bengal. Special Central Assistance is given to these 3 State Governments to supplement their resources for balanced development of hill areas.

The Government is seized of the

environmental problems and concerns of the region as also of various environmentalists and agencies. In order to supplement and make the different programmes effective, the G.B. Pant Institute has been asked to prepare an Action Plan which should comprehensively project various environment and development related problems and actions to mitigate them. An Expert Group has also been set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.Z. Qasim, Member. Planning Commission to formulate National Policy on the Himalaya for integrated development taking into consideration the ecological and environmental factors, resource availability and socio-economic character of the region.

National River Action Plan

3342. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch the National River Action Plan to clean up polluted stretches of major rivers in the country;

(b) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has identified such polluted stretches of the rivers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the estimated cost of the entire project;

(d) whether the State Government's arc to share any cost of the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (e) A National River Action Plan for pollution abatement of polluted stretches of some major rivers of the country identified on the basis of surveys by the Central Pollution Control Board is under formulation. Details in this regard arc being worked out. The Action Plan, when approved, is proposed to be undertaken on sharing of cost between the Centre and the States concerned on 50:50 basis.

Assessment of the proposal regarding Shrimp Culture

3343. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to sent two observers to assess the proposed shrimp culture joint venture enterprise of the Tatas and Orissa Government;

(b) if so, furnish facts of the matter in regard to the observations made in news report in the Business standard dated 19th November, 1992 and present status of the proposal; and

(c) what arc the observations of visiting experts on the projects and the details of action proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests had sent a three-member team to visit the site of the Prawn Culture Project at Chilka lake. The team observed that two shrimp farms have been constructed with permanent bunding of 2-3 meters height above mean sea level. However, further construction work has been suspended. The State Government of Orissa has been advised to gather a multi-disciplinary team having, among others, a limnologist, a hydrologist. a fisheries biologist, a wildlife expert to carry out an in depth environment impact assessment study of the project.

Leasing of Chilka Lake

3344. SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from Government of Orissa